HIS MAJESTIES DECLARATION,

AGAINST THE STATES GENERAL

Of the *United Provinces* of the *Low-Countries*.

Published by the Advice of His Privy Council.

Edinburgh, Re-printed by [illegible], Printer to the King's most Excel[illegible], 1672.

HIS MAJESTIES
DECLARATION
AGAINST THE
GENERAL

HIS MAJESTIES DECLARATION,

AGAINST THE STATES GENERAL

Of the *United Provinces* of the *Low-Countries*.

WE have been alwayes ſo zealous for the Quiet of Chriſtendom, and ſo careful not to invade any other Kingdom or State, that We hope the world will do Us the Juſtice to believe, that it is nothing but inevitable neceſſity forceth Us to the reſolution of taking up Arms.

Immediately upon Our Reſtauration to Our Crowns, the firſt work We undertook, was the eſtabliſhing of Peace, and the ſettling a good Correſpondence between Us and Our Neighbours; and in particular, Our care was to conclude a ſtrict League with the States General of the United Provinces, upon ſuch equal terms, as would certainly not

have been broken, if any obligations could have kept them within the bounds of Friendſhip or Juſtice.

This League was maintained inviolable on Our part. But in the year 1664. We were ſtirred up by the complaints of Our People, and the unanimous Vote of both Our Houſes of Parliament, finding it a vain attempt to endeavour the proſperity of Our Kingdoms by peaceable wayes at home, whilſt Our Subjects were ſtill expoſed to the injuries and oppreſſions of thoſe States abroad.

That whole Summer was ſpent in negotiations and endeavours on Our ſide, to bring them to reaſonable terms, which notwithſtanding all We could do, proved at length ineffectual; for the more We purſued them with friendly Propoſitions, the more obſtinately they kept off from agreeing with Us.

Upon this enſued the War in the year, 1665. and continued to the year, 1667. in all which time Our Victories and their Loſſes were memorable enough to put them in mind of being more faithful to their Leagues for the future. But in ſtead of that, the Peace was no ſooner made, but they returned to their uſual cuſtom of breaking Articles, and ſupplanting Our Trade. For inſtance, The States were particularly engaged in an Article of the Treaty at *Breda*, to ſend Commiſſioners to Us at *London*, about the Regulation of Our Trade in the *Eaſt-Indies*; but they were ſo far from doing it upon that obligation, that when We ſent over Our Ambaſſador to put them in mind of it, he could not into three years time get from them any ſatisfaction in the material Points, nor a forbearance of the Wrongs which Our Subjects received in thoſe parts.

In the *Weſt-Indies* they went a little farther; For by an Article in the ſame Treaty, we were to reſtore *Surinam* into their hands, and by Articles upon the ſame place confirmed

firmed by that Treaty, they were to give Liberty to all Our Subjects in that Colony, to transport themselves and their Estates into any other of Our Plantations. In pursuance of this Agreement, We delivered up the Place, and yet they detained all Our Men in it; onely Major *Banister* they sent away Prisoner, for but desiring to remove according to the Articles. Our Ambassadour complaining of this behaviour, after two years sollicitation, obtained an Order for the performance of those Articles: But when We sent Commissioners, and two Ships to bring Our Men away, the *Hollanders* (according to their former practice in the business of *Poleroon* for above fourty years together) sent private Orders contradictory to those they had owned to Us in publick; and so the onely effect of Our Commissioners journey thither, was to bring away some few of the poorest of Our Subjects, and the Prayers and Crys of the most considerable and wealthiest of them, for relief out of that Captivity. After this, We made Our Complaints by Our Letter in *August* last to the *States General*, wherein We desired an Order to their Governours there, for the full observance of those Articles; yet to this time We could never receive one word of answer or satisfaction.

But it is no wonder that they venture at these Outrages upon Our Subjects in remote parts, when they dare be so bold with Our Royal Person, and the Honour of this Nation so near Us, as in their own Countrey, there being scarce a Town within their Territories that is not filled with abusive Pictures, and false Historical Medals and Pillars, some of which have been exposed to the publick view by command of the *States* themselves, and in the very time when we were joyned with them in united Councels for the support of the Triple League, and the Peace of Christendom. This alone were cause sufficient for Our displea-

displeasure, and the resentment of all Our Subjects. But we are urged to it by considerations yet nearer to Us, then what onely relates to Our Self, the Safety of Our Trade, upon which the wealth and prosperity of Our People depends, the preservation of them abroad from violence and oppression, and the *Hollanders* daring to affront Us almost within Our very Ports, are *The things* which move Our just indignation against them.

The right of the Flagg is so ancient, that it was one of the first Prerogatives of our Royal Predecessors, and ought to be the last from which this Kingdom should ever depart. It was never questioned, and it was expresly acknowledged in the Treaty at *Breda*; and yet this last Summer it was not only violated by their Commanders at Sea, and that violation afterwards justified at the *Hague*, but it was also represented by them in most Courts of Christendom as ridiculous for Us to demand. An ungrateful Insolence, that they should contend with Us about the Dominion of these Seas, who even in the Reign of Our Royal Father, thought it an Obligation to be permitted to Fish in them, by taking of Licenses for a Tribute; and who owe their being now in a condition of making this Dispute, to the Protection of Our Ancestors, and the Valour and Bloud of their Subjects.

In the years 1635 1636 1637

Notwithstanding all these provocations, We patiently expected Satisfaction, not being willing to expose the Peace of Christendom for Our particular resentments, whilest they ceased not on their parts to endeavour to provoke the most Christian King against Us; of which they thought themselves so secure, that for above these Twelve months their Ministers here have threatned Us with it.

At length, hearing nothing from them, We sent another Ambassador to them, who after several pressing

Memorials

Memorials in Our Name, could receive no Answer till after he had declared his revocation. Then they offered a Paper to this effect, That in this Conjuncture they would condescend to strike to Us, if We would assist them against the *French*, but upon condition, that it should never be taken for a President hereafter to their prejudice.

Since the return of Our said Ambassador, They have sent an Extraordinary One to Us, who in a most extraordinary manner has given Us to understand, That he can offer us no Satisfaction till he hath sent back to his Masters.

Wherefore, despairing now of any good effect of a farther Treaty, We are compelled to take up Arms in defence of the Antient Prerogative of Our Crowns, and Glory and Safety of Our Kingdoms; And We put Our Trust in God, that He will give Us His Assistance in this Our Just Undertaking, since We had no way left to defend Our People from the Artifice of that Nation in Peace, but by the Valour of Our Subjects in War.

We have therefore thought fit to Declare, and We do hereby Declare, that We will prosecute War both by Sea and Land against the *States General* of the *United Provinces*, and all their Subjects and Inhabitants. Hereby enjoyning Our most dear and entirely beloved Brother, the Duke of *York* Our High Admiral, Our Lievtenants of Our several Counties, Governors of Our Forts and Garrisons, and all other Officers and Souldiers under them by Sea and Land, to oppose all the attempts of the *States General* of the *United Provinces*, or their Subjects, and to do, and execute all Acts of hostility in the prosecution of this War against the said *States General* of the *United Provinces*, their Vassals, Subjects, and Inhabitants; Willing and Requiring all Our Subjects to take

notice